

REMARKS

In a Final Office Action dated September 27, 2004, the Examiner maintained the § 102 rejections of claims 8-14, 21-26, 29, 30, 34-36 and 40-42 in view of Taruishi. Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider the § 102 rejections for at least the following reasons.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that the DQS signal may be considered a "write command." Final Office Action, 6. However, contrary to the Examiner's statement, Taruishi discusses the DQS signal, as well as write commands. For example, in the discussion of the differential input buffer 30, an amplifier, Taruishi discusses a signal called "DIE" that controls whether or not the differential input buffer 30 is enabled. More specifically, Taruishi discloses in Fig. 4 and discusses in the corresponding text found in lines 6-38 of column 11 that the DIE signal is driven to "a high level after the instructions for the write operation by the write command is given to the DDR-SDRAM 1." Taruishi, 11:25-28. Taruishi further states that in the absence of a write command, the differential input buffer 30 is not activated even if a bank active command is issued if the write command is not given. Taruishi, 11:34-38.

The write command is to be contrasted to the DQS signal. More specifically, in reference to this same differential input buffer 30, Taruishi states that the buffer 30 inputs or receives write data supplied in synchronization with the rising and falling edges of a data strobe signal "DQS" therein. Taruishi, 12:21-23. Thus, in the discussion of the differential input buffer 30, an amplifier, Taruishi discusses enablement of the buffer 30 in connection with a write command and also discusses synchronization of data that is received by the data input buffer 30 with the rising and falling edges of the DQS signal. Therefore, from this context it is clear that the differential input buffer 30 is not enabled in response to at least one data strobe signal, but rather, is enabled in response to a write command.

Regarding this latter point, Applicant requests the Examiner to consider the specific claim limitations. In this regard, the claims specifically recite enabling amplification *in response to* at least one data strobe signal. Thus, although the differential input buffer 30 of Taruishi may, when enabled, receive data in synchronization with a DQS signal, there is no teaching or suggestion in Taruishi that the amplification by the differential input buffer is enabled *in response to* the DQS signal.

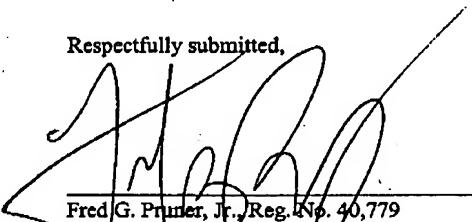
Therefore, when the limitations of the claims are assigned the patentable weight that they are due, it becomes clear that the claims are distinguishable from the arrangements that are disclosed in Tanushi. As such, Applicant requests the Examiner to carefully reconsider the § 102 rejections of the claims and allow claims 8-14, 21-26, 29, 30 and 34-42.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the § 102 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0668US).

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Respectfully submitted,


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